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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 10 are canceled. Claim 14 is added. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 11, and 14 are pending.

Claims 3 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for reasons stated in the Office Action. Claims 3 and 10 are canceled.

Claims 1, 2, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0109596 to Doran.

Applicant would like to point out that the rejection of claims 1, 2, and 11 of the present application is improper for at least the following reasons.

With regard to claim 1, Applicant would like to point out that Doran does not disclose a first area portion of sheet material on which a symbol is pre-printed, and a second area portion of the sheet material (which is different from the first area portion of the sheet material) on which encoded information including apriori reference image quality data is stored.

With regard to claim 2, Applicant would like to point out that Doran does not disclose a first area portion of sheet material on which a symbol (which is other than a MICR codeline) is pre-printed, and a second area portion of the sheet material (which is different from the first area portion of the sheet material) on which encoded information including apriori reference image quality data is stored.

With regard to claim 11, Applicant would like to point out that Doran does not disclose a first area portion of a financial document on which a symbol is pre-printed, and a second area portion of the financial document (which is different from the first area portion of the financial document) on which encoded information including apriori reference image quality data is stored.

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If the Office continues to reject claims 1, 2, and 11 of the present application by applying Doran, it is respectfully requested that the Office specifically point out where Doran discloses the following:

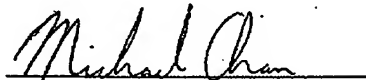
- (i) a first area portion of sheet material (or a financial document) on which a symbol is pre-printed; and
- (ii) a second area portion (which is different from the first area portion) of the sheet material on which encoded information including apriori reference image quality data is stored.

Absent an adequate explanation, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 2, and 11 of the present application is improper and, therefore, should be withdrawn.

New claim 14 is added. It is believed that claim 14 patentably defines over the prior art including Doran and, therefore, should be allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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